

# Norovirus-like Illness Testing at the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory

The facility suspects an outbreak and contacts the Vermont Department of Health at 802-863-7240. A staff member is available 24/7 to work with you.

## Collecting Specimens

- Collect one stool specimen from 2-5 different symptomatic people as soon as possible.
- Use the norovirus stool collection kit (kit #23) or any clean, spill-proof container (no preservation in container).
- Fill out one [Clinical Test Request Form](#) for each specimen.
  - Complete the highlighted sections.
  - **Testing is free in an outbreak** – skip all billing information.
- See [instructions for collecting specimens](#).
- If the facility does not have specimen collection kits, **call the Department of Health at 802-863-7240 to coordinate getting kits.**
- Keep specimens refrigerated until transported to the Laboratory.

## Transporting to the Health Department Laboratory

- Specimens must arrive at the Laboratory within two days of collection.
- Specimens can be dropped off at the Lab, 359 South Park Drive, Colchester from 7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or call 802-863-7240 to coordinate transporting specimens to the lab.

## Testing Specimens at the Laboratory

Testing is only performed when unformed and unpreserved stool is received within 48 hours of collection and when an outbreak is suspected.

## Reporting Results

The Lab will report the results to the Health Department and will contact the person listed under Clinical/Practice Information on the Test Request Form.